

THYME TWO

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EDITORIALS: (1) Welcome to the 2nd issue of THYME. Response to the 1st issue has been favourable and we've received a small number of subs. and a fair bit of news. Most of this support came from people I rather expected would get in with early support, but I don't mind saying that the support of these people (who I tend to think of as the nucleus of Australia's fanzine fandom) would not be enough to get us past 3-5 issues. But it would be naive of me to think that the people on the fringe of our fanzine fandom would rush out and support us on the basis of one issue. We need to have proved ourselves by publishing a small number of issues at our stated interval and show that we are reliable before that happens.

Since last issue we've been trying to formulate some sort of policy on how people can get THYME, and we think we have come up with the best solution. Subscription is the easy one and provides no complications: you pay for an issue and you get it. Our trade policy is almost as simple: we are basically going for a 1-for-1 policy, with 2-for-1 if we both get your fanzine. The slight complication arises in that we wish to have an all-for-all trade with other newszines. However, we have problems with working out 'payment' for news. For instance, if ten people on a convention committee send us the same news about the con do we really have to send them each a copy?; in this situation we think it is only necessary that we send copies to the chairman and the person in charge of publicity. What we ask is that you all take out subs. and leave it to us to extend them as appropriate. The main reason for asking for this is because publishing a frequent newszine is rather an expensive process, and while we don't expect to make a profit we do need the financial base that 100 subs. would provide. Also it would provide us with tangible evidence that Australian fandom wants/needs the fanzine we want THYME to be.

One last thing: we would like you lot to write reports, specifically for THYME, on past events (such as cons, club meetings, fannish parties, etc) rather than have us reconstruct these reports out of conversations, or abstract them from your apazines. Our requirements are that these reports be concise, to the point, and we rather like them to have a gossipy feel, though this isn't necessary. We hope you'll all oblige. - Irwin Hirsh

(2) As was briefly mentioned in our first issue, an amendment to the constitution of the Australasian Science Fiction Society was moved and accepted. The amendment, moved by Cary Lenehan and Jeff Harris (?), proposed that the format of the Ditmar awards be

standardised as follows: that the award take the form of a block of black stone in the proportions 1 to 4 to 9, with a representation of the Southern Cross carved into the stone, the whole mounted on a base of Australian wood.

While the idea of standardisation is laudable, and has been met with acclaim from various quarters, there remain some ambiguities within the new specifications. Some interesting possibilities were pointed out by Mandy Herriott and Phil Ware, who form the 1982 Ditmar awards committee, at a recent Tschaicon committee meeting. Firstly, nothing in the new article of the ASFS constitution rules out a base of chipboard. Secondly, and more importantly, 1 to 4 to 9 what ? Inches ? Feet ? As the constitution now stands, there is nothing to prevent a conglom from handing out an award that measures 1 by 4 by 9 millimetres. While this might help Marc Ortlieb's problems with Ditmar storage, it is presumably not the intention of this amendment.

In a more serious light, I ask whether stone is the best material for the body of the award. While there is no doubt that it is visually impressive, and that the awards given at Adventiom were the most handsome Ditmars yet seen, stone has a couple of major drawbacks: it is expensive to craft, and it can be very heavy. If an award must be sent overseas, as is the case, at least once a year, the postage would not be insubstantial. It is rumoured that at least one Ditmar award waited 2 years until some committee member happened to be off to England. - Andrew Brown.

AMAZING CONVENTION FACTS ! PHANTASTICON 81: Melbourne's first major fantasy convention: 21st - 23rd August.
Venue: Melbourne Townhouse. GOH: Alex Stitt. \$5.00 till July 31st. \$10.00 thereafter (\$7.00 students). Daily \$6.00 (\$5.00 students). Money payable to the Australian Comic Collector, PO Box 45, Mitcham, Vic. 3132 or RMIT SFCA, RMIT, Latrobe St., Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

TOLKON: August 22nd - 24th. Venue: New Crest Hotel, Kings Cross. Box 272, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney 2006. Tolkon is this year's Unicom, and is fantasy oriented with a strong bias towards performance. (Sounds vaguely obscene... AB)

SWANCON 7: January 27th to 30th 1982. Venue: the Royal George, East Fremantle. GOH: Robin Johnson. PO Box 318, Nedlands, WA 6009.

TSCHAICON: the 1st Australasian Science Fiction Convention, April 9th - 12th, 1982. Venue: Melbourne Townhouse. GOH: Jack Vance. Australian GOH: Leanne Frahm. Fan GOH: Eric Lindsay. Toastmasters: Marc Ortlieb. \$16.00 until Tolkon, \$20.00 until December 31st, \$25.00 until April 5th, \$30.00 at the door. GPO Box 2708X, Melbourne, Vic., 3001. This would have been the 21st national convention but for certain constitutional amendments.

CIRCULATION ONE: 3rd - 4th October 1981. Venue: Hotel Ainslie, Canberra. Convention Mascot: Peter Toluzzi. \$5 supporting, \$15 attending until 1st October 1981, \$20 at the door.

Convention address is Circulation 1, PO Box 544, Civic Square, ACT 2608. (Sorry about putting this out of order...)

LAST ISSUE we mentioned that the state of the fan funds looks very good. Unfortunately it is now not so true with regard to TAFF. Just before the closing date of nominations 3 of the 4 announced candidates decided not to stand, leaving Kevin Smith with the unenviable prospect of standing against "Hold Over Funds". This, of course, has left a lot of people quite stunned, especially as this situation has never happened in TAFF's 20+ year history. The nomination deadline has now been postponed to mid-August, and hopefully a few people will come forward to make a race of it; the 'race' aspect being, actually, a very important aspect of the fan funds.

GUFF, on the other hand, looks like not having to worry about such set-backs. In the latest issue of ANSIBLE (Britain's newszine put out by Dave Langford) Joseph Nicholas In Australia seems to be the featured topic, with Joseph presenting his view of his trip, while Marc Ortlieb, Paul Stevens and Leigh Edmonds present our view of those 3 weeks. Joseph, so impressed with Us and this Great Land of ours, is looking towards paying us a return visit. At the moment Joseph has set his sights on at least 2 months in late-1983.

In the meantime, nominations are open for the 1982 GUFF race to send an Australian to Channelcon (British Eastercon, being held in Brighton). Next issue we hope to have a rider from Australian GUFF administrator John Foyster (21 Shakespeare Grove, St.Kilda, Vic 3182) in which he will set out the nominating conditions. Since they are unlikely to be radically different from the standard fan fund nominating conditions those of you looking towards having a semi-free trip to England next Easter should start now in getting your act together. The nomination deadline is in the first week of Sept.

Paul Stevens reports that his DUFF Trip Report is now complete, and will be available in August/September. Joseph Nicholas intends to have his GUFF Trip Report completed and published by the end of September.

Sally Underwood is thinking about standing for GUFF. (And while on the matter of possible fan fund candidates, we should apologise for the bit of Lazy Journalism last issue in which we unknowingly implied that Leigh Edmonds is thinking about standing for DUFF. What happened was that I had heard mentions of John Bangsund and John McPharlin in relation to both DUFF and GUFF and decided, as a result, to dump all DUFF and GUFF possibles into one category. Leigh has been mentioned as a possible GUFF candidate, but as a past DUFF winner he is unlikely to ever consider standing for DUFF.)

I WOULD also like to apologise to Leanne Frahm and the Tschaicon committee for my ignorance last issue concerning the naming of Leanne as GoH at next years National Convention, and using my ignorance as a pivot to voicing some concerns I have about the practise of spending large amounts of money to bring out big name authors. I still have these concerns and it is a pity I voiced them

under such circumstances.

MARC ORTLIEB requests that any mail sent to him until mid-September be posted to his Elizabeth Downs address (70 Hamblynn Rd, Elizabeth Downs, SA 5113). Marc is to one of the many Aussies who will be at Denvention, this years Worldcon being held in Denver, Colorado. In all he will be spending 6 weeks in the States and Canada, and we hope to get some reports from Marc in THYME.

ERIC LINDSAY has been transferred to the Springwood branch of the bank he works for. He is now situated three kilometres from his home and expects to reduce his travel time by one and a half hours. We wonder about how much of that extra time will be devoted to fanac....

BOOKSHOPS IN THE NEWS: Adeliade's The Black Whole Bookshop (owned by local fan Paul Day) recently moved into a spacious and attractive premises in Chesser St.

Melbourne's Space Age Books (owned by Merv Binns) is now ten years old. To celebrate it is having a sale, which lasts, I think, to the end of July.

THE NOVA MOB Melbourne's sci fi discussion group, has been revived. Meetings are held at 8.00pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is to held at 21 Shakespeare Grove, St. Kilda, and John Foyster will speak on the writings of Barrington J. Bayley. Smoking is not encouraged at 21 Shakespeare Grove.

CHRISTOPHER PRIEST will be in Adeliade for the 1st ten or so days of March, 1982, presumably for Adeliade's Festival of Arts. We gather he will also spend some time in some of Australia's other cities. Chris and Lisa Tuttle (Campbell Award winner and on this year's Hugo ballot) were married in late April. It is not known if Lisa will travel Down Under with Chris.

BIRTHDAYS: Mark Fraser turned 20 on the 3rd of July. Andrew Brown came of age on the 17th of July. Derrick Ashby will turn 29, any day now.

ANZAPA's new Official Bloody Editor is Derrick Ashby (PO Box 175, South Melbourne, Vic 3205). There is presently a small waiting-list for ANZAPA.

TECHNICAL NOTES. We wish to apologise for the printing of the second page and the effect it has on some copies of the first page. It would appear that all stencils will have to be typed by Irwin Hirsh in the future.

Next issue of THYME will appear in the next 2-4 weeks, and we'd like to remind everybody to keep those cards, letters, bits of news and sub. monies coming in. See ya'.